2: Dowson G-5 (1929-30) 1932 MHl Iraq MHl

Bowyers Field,
Wrotham,
Kent.
December, 1931.

His Excellency
The President of the Council of Ministers,
Baghdad.

Excellency,

121 I have the honour to submit herewith my definite report on land tenure and related questions in el 'Iraq, in accordance with the invitation extended to me by Government and embodied in resolutions of the Council of Ministers, dated July 4th and December 22nd, 1929, and previous correspondence.

This report should entirely replace the series of provisional reports containing recommendations for the commencement of settlement of rights to land, which were forwarded at the special request of Government at the beginning of this year. Unfortunately the early action then hoped for, was not realised. But since the recommendations in the present report on the subject follow the same lines, this advance series may have served a useful purpose if they facilitate fuller consideration of these measures now.

The preparation of these provisional reports and a certain number of other current demands have helped to delay the presentation of this report: but the decisive reasons why it has taken much longer than I originally anticipated have been the time needed to study adequately the great mass of material ultimately collected and to formulate measures that would both achieve their object and be within the country's resources.

The necessity to put land tenure and land revenue on to a more stable basis has long been recognised. The ways and means of doing so have been continuously discussed throughout the last decade; but without any effective or sustained action having so far resulted. As mentioned in due course, el 'Iraq is not unusual in this respect; but, none the less, until effective measures are taken to remedy these long-standing evils, they must continue to impede the development of the country and the well-being of the people.

It appears from past discussions that the hesitation of successive governments to attack these evils resolutely is largely to be ascribed to lack of conviction both as to the real character of the problems and as to the practical remedies to be applied. It has therefore appeared to me essential to fulfil two governing requirements if I was to provide Government with assistance of a useful nature and in a useful form. I must probe the problem thoroughly and present it comprehensively, whatever time and effort was involved. And in formulating my recommendations, I must pay the closest attention to the practicability of the measures proposed, having regard to the country's capacity and resources. While it would be too much to hope that I have satisfied these conditions

fully, I believe that I have been able to furnish Government with a fundamentally reliable foundation for attainable measures of reform.

If I have been able to do so it is due in the first place to the unstinted co-operation that I received from everyone to whom I applied for information or help during my stay in the country, and in the second to having been able to treat the question as a continuous comprehensive study throughout.

In conclusion I wish to express my gratitude to Your Excellency and to all those to whom I am indebted for the unfailing courtesy and generous assistance that I everywhere received.

I have the honour to be,

Excellency,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ERNEST M. DOWSON.

2: Dowson G-5 (1929-30) 1932 MH Iraq MH.

An Inquiry

INTO

LAND TENURE AND RELATED QUESTIONS

PART I.—SCOPE AND PROCEDURE OF INQUIRY

185 1. The considerations which led Government to ask me to visit el 'Iraq in the winter-spring season 1929-30 were briefly summarised at the time. The necessity of setting up a sound system of settlement and registration of rights to land as an essential preliminary to agricultural development was urged. It was represented that until effective measures to achieve these ends had been devised and put into operation, agricultural development must either be delayed or based on unstable foundations. It was emphasised that while the country was full of agricultural possibilities and only required development on sound lines, it lacked the necessary basis of a sound system of land registration. And it was explained that the Departments of Revenue, of Land Registration and of State Domains were pursuing reform without proper co-ordination and on no connected plan.

The main objective was the promotion of agricultural development. The particular needs were adjudged to be (i) the execution of a settlement of rights to land throughout the country, (ii) the establishment of an efficient system of book-keeping of those rights, and (iii) the unification of divergent and disconnected Departmental efforts. I was asked to study the problem as a whole and to advise how it should be attacked. As outlined that problem appeared to be essentially one of organisation and procedure for attaining two accepted objectives: a just settlement, and an efficient register, of rights to land. I anticipated that the requisite information regarding existing conditions would be readily available: and I expected that the discussions of previous years would have produced clearly defined issues. But I had not allowed for the peculiar fluidity and diversity of methods of land tenure practised.

423 427 It proved to be common knowledge that the tenure of some four-fifths of the cultivated land in the country was not governed by law, was not amenable to the jurisdiction of the Courts, and was not regulated in any methodical way at all. It was also common knowledge that the land law was defective and uncertain in its application to the other fifth. And it soon appeared that there was an almost complete lack of precise, authoritative and systematic information in the Headquarter Offices of Government in regard to land conditions generally and to the methods of holding, transferring and transmitting land actually practised from day to day by the great mass of landholders and agricultural peasantry throughout all parts of the country.

●121 It therefore became necessary to extend the scope of my inquiry to include an investigation of the conditions of land tenure actually operating throughout the country, as distinct (for the most part) from those

121 enshrined in the Statute Books of Government. And since the taxation imposed on agricultural production is one of the most important practical conditions attaching to the utilisation of land, a study of such taxation had to enter into the inquiry. Nor could any investigation of conditions of landholding in el 'Iraq be intelligible or real which did not pay careful regard to the methods of irrigation, public and private, the prevalent forms and standards of cultivation, the distribution and remuneration of agricultural labour. It was not of course possible within the period of a few months to cover this vast field of investigation as thoroughly and completely as the occasion demanded: but owing to the widespread and generous collaboration aroused, the results provide an adequate basis for immediately useful measures.

121 185 This general study of existing conditions had to precede consideration of the three objectives originally indicated, if Government was to be sure of its ground and to be provided with a trustworthy foundation for progressively constructive reform. For settlement of rights to land pre-supposes and requires some stable bases of land law, or at least of legalised custom, on which such rights can be founded. And so far, by common admission, such bases rarely exist, nor do the discussions of previous years appear to have advanced agreement as to the remedy. Again although an efficient Land Register is indispensable in due course, both for the operation of the statutorily registered tenures, and for any orderly regulation of the enormous residue of (so-called) State Domain, yet the execution of a settlement of rights to land must precede the establishment of such a Register. For an effective Land Register is nothing but an intelligible and dependable record. Its function is simply to mirror clearly and faithfully rights to land existing at any and every moment. It is useless to devote money and effort to rectifying and burnishing the mirror, so long as it will only have an unintelligible tangle to reflect. Attention must first be directed to unravelling the tangle.

185 Further, while it is certainly true that no united effort had been made, and no connected plan pursued, by the three public services mentioned, yet it will be recognised that, as subordinate Departments of three separate Ministries, they were not in a position themselves to adopt any general scheme of reform. This is clearly the responsibility of Government as a whole. And, as will appear later, if any well-concerted and effective measures are to be undertaken, the better co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts of these services will not be enough.

423 2. The lack of a well-documented collection of information about existing conditions of land tenure throughout the country was not on consideration surprising, having regard to the vicissitudes of modern el 'Iraq's short history. There must have been an enormous amount of spade work to be done in establishing orderly government throughout the country during the last ten years: and the current needs of administration no doubt completely absorbed the time and energies of those who might otherwise have undertaken a systematic collection of trustworthy information. The collection of such information, particularly in statistical form, is apt to be a slow development in any country. It requires time, a scientific appreciation of the value of exact data, and the resources of a well-established and experienced public service. And in connection with land it requires a more comprehensive and far-sighted outlook than a number of disunited Departments can reasonably be expected to produce.

423 184 The collection of a representative volume of trustworthy information was also attended by peculiar difficulty, owing to the extreme diversity of conditions prevailing throughout the country. This diversity

2: Dowson G-5 (1929-30) 1932 MHI Iraq MHI

is partly the outcome of historic causes and has partly been generated by differing local conditions and ethnic origins. Under Ottoman administration present-day el 'Iraq comprised the three vilayets of Mosul, Baghdad and Basra, each somewhat jealously watching, and watched from, the capital. This separatism was accentuated by divergent economic orientations. Mosul looked primarily northwards; Baghdad to Persia and the bordering desert; Basra to the sea. And superimposed on the traditional differences between the ancient vilayets were the more varied and more stubborn ones arising from differing natural conditions. Local social influences combined with these varying conditions to produce different practices, as well as to promote different policies, in different districts.

The general absence of reliable information was nevertheless baffling. For although principles are useful guides, and illuminating discussions can be based on generalities, which may or may not be true, a more dependable foundation is needed before measures of constructive reform can be confidently embarked upon.

3. My first care was to seek copies of all important previous papers dealing with the land problems of the country. Naturally many were unobtainable, while others were rare or fragmentary; but a number of those that remained call for gratitude and acknowledgment from a later worker in the same field. Several papers, written in the days of the early administration by experienced officers of the Indian Government, outlined measures for settlement which, if steadily applied and developed, should by now have gone far to mitigate, if not remove, the worst existing disabilities. Unfortunately, the promise of this preliminary work was interrupted and never took shape.

A fresh impetus seems to have been given to the consideration of reform by an extremely able "Note on Land and Revenue Policy" written by Mr. S. H. Longrigg, late Inspector General of Revenue, in May 1926. A series of most interesting and instructive discussions followed. But the writers commonly recognise the unavoidably academic nature of many of these discussions and the need to subject proposals to experimental trial, owing to the absence of adequate information of existing conditions. It is greatly to be regretted that such trials were not made. Measures of reform consequently continued to be confined to paper debates. This sterile result was ascribed to the lack of a formal acceptance and pronouncement by Government of its intended policy. Actually the fewer pronouncements of abstract policy that are made the better for the prospects of useful reform. The failure to do anything appears in fact to have been primarily due to the lack of a competent executive service charged with the study and conduct of such reform.

4. Even if there had been full and exact information available at the Headquarter Offices of Government, it would have been desirable that I should visit each province (Liwa) and get in touch with its conditions on the spot. The general lack of such information made it imperative to secure some expression of the great volume of local knowledge and experience of the actual operation of land tenure and its incidentals from day to day, that was dispersed throughout the country.

The procedure adopted for my inquiry while in el 'Iraq may be summarised under five heads. Firstly, I endeavoured to secure copies of all important correspondence and papers dealing with the land problems of the country as already mentioned.

Secondly, I drew up a questionnaire which was issued by the Ministry of the Interior to all provincial (liwa) authorities. This asked (i) for the

124 compilation of a map indicating the existing distribution of various categories of land in the liwa, (ii) for the preparation of numerical returns relating to population, to the various categories of land, etc., and (iii) a hundred important questions covering the main field of the investigation.

114 Thirdly, I studied at Headquarters the working of the Central Government services primarily concerned, as thoroughly as my immediate purpose required and the time at my disposal permitted.

124 Fourthly, I visited each of the fourteen liwas in turn and (i) discussed the main problems thoroughly with the Governor (Mutasarrif), 114 (ii) was taken to typical or specially instructive places, and (iii) met and questioned a number of other provincial officers, local notables, land holders and peasants. Owing to the previous circulation of the questionnaire, all provincial officers were well prepared for these discussions, while I also received very full written replies in all but every case.

124 Fifthly, I had the honour to be accorded several audiences by H.M. King Feisal as well as numerous interviews with Ministers, Deputies and others. And I also interviewed in Baghdad a number of experienced persons both European and 'Iraqi, with special knowledge and experience of land questions. Unfortunately owing to prolonged bad weather, which interfered with my touring programme and severely curtailed the time available for supplementing my information after its initial collection, it was not found possible to arrange meetings with some of those whom I was particularly anxious to see. I regret this very much, but greatly as they would have assisted me, I venture to believe that nothing they might have said would have seriously modified the main conclusions drawn from the mass of evidence collected.

000 5. Owing to the wideness of the field to be covered the five months that I spent in el 'Iraq were entirely occupied in collecting material which could not be digested until I got back to England. The records of the investigations fill more than forty dossiers. Naturally many gaps and uncertainties were discovered during the examination of this large body of material. This necessitated correspondence with Baghdad extending almost continuously over another six months. The attempt to obtain intelligible and consistent statistics was particularly troublesome.

It must not be thought that even this considerable volume of data covers the field wholly or unimpeachably, or that I can have escaped misinterpretations and errors. No such improvised body of information can be a satisfactory substitute for systematic public records and the accumulated experience of a competent and well organised public service able to concentrate on land problems. But the information and opinions collected, read in the light of experience elsewhere, do none the less enable the main evils to be diagnosed with confidence and the essential elements of constructive reform to be trustworthily indicated.

121 I have thought it advisable to explain the widening of the scope of my investigation and to outline the procedure adopted, so that the character and origin of my information is on record. But I have not attempted to reproduce the mass of conclusions which the material collected has yielded. This would fill volumes. And I have expressly excluded from consideration in this report many questions of the highest importance, which I have had to inquire about owing to their reaction on land tenure (e.g. methods of cultivation, of remuneration of labour, etc.), but which did not themselves directly constitute the subject of the inquiry. Again although it was necessary to study the special problems of each province (liwa) as far as time permitted, so as to get a

2: Dowson G-5 (1929-30) 1932 MHI Iraq MHI

proper picture of the whole, I have confined myself in these pages t what may be described as the general aspects of the question as distinc from those of particular localities. Nor has anything like the attention the subject deserves been given to pastoral rights. For while settlement of rights to grazing and pasture is also required, they do not call for such rigid definition, nor is settlement of such rights so urgently needed as of rights to cultivable land, unless the two conflict. Consideration of the Land Revenue system in force when I visited the country has also been omitted, as this system has since been superseded (see ii, 4).

In pursuance of the attempt to restrict attention at this stage to those phases of the problem which call for action first, I have also avoided consideration here of many features or incidentals of existing land tenure, which may be intrinsically of as great importance as others that are examined. Among matters which are not examined in this report for this reason may be mentioned: the various forms of dedication in *waqf*, the conditions of *milk* tenure, the escheat of tapu tenure for failure to cultivate or failure of heirs, known as *mahlul*, the charge known as *ujr*, the position of newly formed land in a river termed *shati*, the old and new forms of hypothec or mortgage. These almost exclusively affect the registered tenures, and are best considered in the general study and amendment of the land law which is advocated (see vii, 1). Similarly the much-debated question of the conditions under which acquisitive prescription of tapu tenure should come into effect, can have little practical value, until the Government is in a position to implement its statutory tenures. Important established customs affecting State Domain, which are not entered into for the same reason are the *mugharisa* and *ta'aba* systems of planting and tending gardens and groves.

Finally, I have thought it best, on these grounds also, to restrict detailed discussion of proposed measures to those required for the initial execution of reform. While the character of measures that would be required subsequently to conserve the benefits attained by reform have had to be indicated, no attempt is made to formulate them in detail.

Even generalised and truncated in these ways the main problem remains a difficult one either to present or to master; but it has not appeared to me possible to simplify it further without distortion. The study of the land tenure of any country, with a view to practical and realisable reform, is no light undertaking; and that undertaking is attended with peculiar difficulties in el 'Iraq for reasons which are explained.

To facilitate reading and reference I have divided this report into nine parts, which I have endeavoured to make as self-contained as possible. This necessitates some repetition and discontinuity on consecutive reading; but it is impossible to present this intricate question in any readily digestible form. The subject matter of each of these parts is given on the contents page and need not be repeated. The last alone calls for explanation. It has been written in response to numerous inquiries, official and otherwise, when I was in el 'Iraq, regarding the wider setting of the problems of land tenure in relation to the general development of the country as a whole and to the other great ameliorative movements needed. It concludes with a summary of the main recommendations made. It is hoped that this part of the report may be of assistance to those who, while impressed with the critical importance of a constructive reform of land tenure, may be unable to study the whole of this report textually.

3: Clark S-5 (1950)1951 MH1 Iraq MH1

PREFACE

121 The present study on the Problem of *Compulsory Education in Iraq* is one of a series issued by Unesco in preparation for the 14th Conference on Public Education, organized jointly by Unesco and the International Bureau of Education in Geneva, in July 1951.

A major part of that conference is being devoted to the discussion of the problems of compulsory education, and it was thought that apart from the study conducted by the International Bureau of Education, based on a questionnaire sent to governments, Unesco would undertake six type-studies. Of these, three have been devoted to countries that have already achieved compulsory education, but whose method of execution differ one from the other: England as a country whose educational administration is decentralized; France as a country whose administration of education is centralized, and Australia as a country whose educational administration is decentralized on the federal, but centralized on the State level.

Another three type-studies have to do with countries that have reached different stages, leading to the achievement of compulsory education. For this purpose, one country in Latin America—Ecuador; in South East Asia—Thailand, and in the Middle East—Iraq, have been chosen.

In addition, two other studies have been undertaken; one a comparative study on the *Prolongation of Compulsory School Age* by Professor I. L. Kandel, and another on *Child Labour and Compulsory Education*, kindly being undertaken by the International Labour Office.

The present study on Iraq derives its main significance from the fact that it brings out very clearly the relation of compulsory education to other economic political and social factors, whether operating as agents, facilitating its realization, or putting obstacles in its way. The author has succeeded in sizing up the actual situation, of setting out the problem of land tenure, the poverty of the average farmer, tribal organization and various others factors which now impede the expansion of the primary school system. On the other hand, the great Arabic tradition and respect for learning and the impulse of the national movement

3: Clark S-5 (1950) 1951 MH1 Iraq MH1

(21) are among the factors acting for the continuous expansion of primary education.

It is hoped that this study, along with the others, will help to bring out the most important points necessary for a realistic discussion of compulsory education problems.

3: Clark S-5 (1950) 1951 MH1 Iraq MH1

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both of educational progress already made and the great obstacles which still have to be overcome.

While these visits were being made, a decision had to be taken as to the best means of using the limited time available. It seemed that the report on the study should take one of two forms. It could be a strictly limited account of the administrative action which would need to be taken to apply some measure of compulsory education in the fairly immediate future, together with detailed statistical data concerning towns and villages in each province in which the completion of primary school provision would enable compulsory education to be declared. This form of report was not, however, considered desirable for two reasons. First, it would have meant that, instead of visiting schools, seeing the general conditions of the country and meeting people representative of the different aspects of Iraqi life, most of the time would have had to be spent sitting at a desk in the provincial education offices and at the Ministry of Education itself. This is not the best means of attempting to feel the educational pulse of a country. Secondly, such a report was made a few years ago by the 'Ten-Year Plan Committee' referred to in the following pages. But little achievement in the direction of compulsory education arose from that most valuable report, mainly because certain major administrative reforms essential to its application were never carried out.

Consequently, it was decided that the study would probably be more valid, although more general, if it were based on the continuance of personal visits to schools and the other places indicated. It was felt that it would then be possible to consider prospects of compulsory education in the wider setting of the changes and developments that are taking place or need to take place. Administrative and other recommendations for practical action would have to be made, but these would arise from actual evidence and not from notions derived from the academic study of not entirely reliable statistics.

After many such visits up and down the country, during which impressions both of a general and particular nature were accumulated, it became clear that the report on the investigation could conveniently follow the sequence of a brief survey of the conditions of the country, an analysis of the educational needs of Iraq, an impression of the extent to which these needs are being met in the existing system, and an appreciation of the economic, political and social factors assisting or impeding educational advance. It soon became evident, however, that although there are many serious obstacles to the development of compulsory education, the study would be incomplete without reference to the significant

3: Clark S-5 (1950)1951 MH Iraq MH

ways in which some of these are being overcome. This suggested that there would be some value in then attempting to outline a policy of advance in the direction of compulsory education which would go hand in hand with the economic, political and social changes that are taking place. But although it proved possible to outline suggestions for such a policy of development, it also became abundantly clear that, until the major obstacle of the land tenure system can be overcome, ambitious progress towards compulsory education must continue to be frustrated.

So the study took the shape which appears in the following chapters. It would have been an impertinence to try to cover so much ground had it not been that the generous facilities given by the Minister of Education and the others already mentioned enabled me to use information, figures and opinion which have accumulated over a long period as a result of the efforts of people in the educational and other public services of Iraq. Nevertheless, although much of what is written in this study is a result of the thought and labours of others, any opinions expressed and conclusions drawn are, unless otherwise stated, my own responsibility. The same applies to the inevitable inaccuracies which are bound to be discovered by others who have long been associated with the educational affairs of Iraq. This acceptance of personal responsibility for opinions, conclusions and inaccuracies does, of course, draw attention to what may be regarded as a fundamental weakness in the whole study. Although every effort was made to undertake an objective enquiry, this cannot disguise the fact that the study is the work of an educational administrator whose knowledge of the Near and Middle East is limited and whose experience is based mainly on western systems.

At least two other defects or omissions are obvious. Firstly, in relation to a country where most of the adult population remains illiterate, suggestions for advance towards compulsory education cannot be dissociated from measures for combating general illiteracy. It will be seen that some reference is made both to the problem of adult illiteracy and to the need for associating day schools with realistic projects of fundamental education. Reference to this problem is only sketchy, partly because time pressed hard but mainly because, at the time of writing, a Unesco team is about to investigate materials and techniques for fundamental education in Iraq. Secondly, an account of the educational system beyond the primary stage is not given. This omission is deliberate—it is not necessary to duplicate the excellent information given by Dr. Matta Akrawi and Professor Roderic Matthews in their current book *Education in Arab Countries of the Near East.*

An attempt has been made to be reasonably frank. The

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

PREFACE

• 121 On October 10, 1950, the Government of Iraq officially requested the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to send a mission to Iraq to undertake a general review of the country's economic potentialities and make recommendations for a development program. After an exchange of views it was agreed that a mission would be sent with the following terms of reference:

> "The Mission will be expected to undertake a general review of Iraq's economic potentialities and to submit recommendations designed to assist the Government of Iraq to formulate a long-term program for the further development of the country's productive resources. Specifically, the report of the Mission is to include recommendations concerning:
>
> (1) investment priorities as among different sectors of the Iraqi economy and as among types of undertakings within each important sector;
>
> (2) the approximate rate of investment which can appropriately be undertaken without inflationary or other disruptive effects;
>
> (3) measures apart from capital investment which appear necessary or desirable for improving and increasing production;
>
> (4) economic and fiscal policies which may be important to accelerate the pace of Iraq's development; and
>
> (5) governmental organization and practices having an important effect on development."

114 A number of United Nations agencies cooperated in the selection of the personnel of the Mission. The agricultural economist, the agronomist and the expert on animal husbandry were nominated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which also undertook to pay a portion of their salaries

[p. viii is blank]

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

The Mission's[1] report consists of two parts. The first part contains the major findings and recommendations of the Mission to which are attached appendices: one, listing the Mission's recommendations, one, sumarizing the Mission's suggestions for technical assistance; and a third on statistical organization. The second part consists of a series of monographs dealing with particular subjects. The first monograph is concerned with the basic factors and conditions in the economy of Iraq which the Mission has considered in framing its recommendations. The others set forth in greater detail the Mission's views on flood control, irrigation and drainage; agriculture and animal husbandry; industry; transport and communications; public health; education; and community planning and housing.

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1 - [International Bank Mission to Iraq, 1951--Analyst]

8:Campbell T-5 (no date) 1949 MH1 Iraq MH1

APPENDIX

TRIBAL MARRIAGE CUSTOMS 121

The attached translation is of a description of a marriage as it actually happens in the tribes. It is given because in some of the stories there are departures from normal marriage customs, and these variations from normal custom in the stories are intended to emphasise the situations into which the characters have got themselves.

p. 237

Sh: Hooper and Field 3-5 (1934) 1937 MAI Iran MAI
Iraq MNI

PREFACE

I-I
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During 1934 as leader of the Field Museum Anthropological Expedition to the Near East, in addition to about 10,000 herbarium specimens from Trans-Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Iran, I collected a number of useful plants and drugs in Iran and Iraq.

The late Dr. Berthold Laufer, then Curator of Anthropology, had requested me to make this collection and to obtain such information as could be had regarding their use in the treatment of diseases and in prescriptions for various ailments.

In Iran specimens were purchased in the native markets of Tehran and Isfahan. In each case the Persian name with its English transliteration and the use of the drug or herb was recorded. While guests of Dr. Erich Schmidt at Rayy during September, 1934, we obtained specimens in Tehran. Dr. Walter P. Kennedy of the Royal College of Medicine in Baghdad and Mr. George Miles, member of the archaeological expedition staff at Rayy, assisted in this work.

115

At Isfahan Mirza Muhammad Ali Khan, ninety-five-year-old doctor, very kindly consented to dictate his prescriptions (pp. 200–216) for various ailments. He began to practice medicine at the age of twenty after spending about five years in a local school. His father, several uncles, and his grandfather were medical practitioners using the oral tradition and two large handwritten volumes of prescriptions, which I examined at his home in the depths of the labyrinthine Ghetto. At Isfahan the dictation in Persian was recorded by Juda Rabbi Hedvat of the Alliance Israélite.

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The translation was prepared in part by Dr. A. H. Mookree and by Dr. A. H. K. Sasaani, Iran Government scholar at the University of Chicago. Dr. H. W. Bailey of the School of Oriental Studies, University of London, revised the Persian characters and the transliterations.

The assistance of Mr. Paul C. Standley, Associate Curator of Botany in Field Museum, who checked the botanical names in the text, and of Miss Elizabeth Reniff in the preparation of the report is gratefully acknowledged.

Mr. A. R. Horwood of Kew Herbarium very kindly identified some of the specimens.

The spelling of place names conforms to the system adopted by the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, published in London by the Royal Geographical Society.

Hooper and Field 8-5 (1934) 1937 MAI Iran MAI
Iraq MHI

I-I To conform to current practice Iran has been substituted for Persia and Irani for Persian except in historical references.

114 In Iraq Dr. Hydari, Director of the Rustam Agricultural Experimental Farm at Hinaidi near Baghdad, presented to Field Museum a number of varieties of *Goesypium*, *Hordeum*, and *Triticum*. Dr. Calvin K. Staudt, Director of the American School for Boys in Baghdad, contributed information regarding loral drugs.

As a result of Dr. Laufer's death, arrangements had to be made for the study and publication of the material desired by him without the benefit of his collaboration. Other collections of drugs from southwestern Asia had been studied by Dr. David Hooper of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum in London. I therefore visited him to discuss the question of the identification of the collections from Iran and Iraq. Dr. Hooper, who a few years previously had published an account of the drugs of Iran, consented to prepare a report on the Field Museum material and this publication is the result. To his account, I have in certain cases added some notes (H.F.) and, from sources indicated in each instance, mostly from Evan Guest, a mention of some of the more important useful plants not a part of the collection studied by Dr. Hooper. Dr. Casey A. Wood has published a translation of the "Tadhkirat" of Ali ibn Isa of Baghdad (circa A.D. 940–1010) under the title "Memorandum Book of a Tenth-Century Oculist," Chicago, 1936. This publication contains (pp. 47–78) a list of drugs and other remedial agents which can be compared with the data in this report.

126 Because of the difficulties involved in recording the colloquial names for the various plants and drugs and their transliterations, there are inevitably certain discrepancies, but I believe that the list of native names in alphabetical order with their Latin equivalents should be of value to other collectors. If the native name is not in the list, the reader should refer to tukhm (seeds), gul-i (flowers), gil-i (earth), or rishah (root), as the name may appear in these forms.

• 121 The useful plants and materia medica of southwestern Asia may be considered to be fairly well known and no new drug plants are included in the list, but it is hoped that this report will be of value in making existing information even more accessible and in encouraging medical officers to publish additional information.

The rapid advance of westernization in Iran under Reza Shah Pahlevi and in Iraq under King Ghazi necessitates the accurate recording of rapidly disappearing primitive medical folklore.

HENRY FIELD